

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 0200900 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2618

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2148

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OVIP, AF

SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT SOUTH ASIA

REF: (A) STATE 056675; (B) KABUL 2098

1. NO FOREIGN NEWS CORRESPONDENTS ARE STATIONED REGULARLY IN KABUL AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANY WILL BE HERE AT TIME OF DEPSEC VISIT. ON PREVIOUS SIMILAR VISITS WHERE WE HAVE SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE, WE HAVE TYPICALLY HAD MAXIMUM OF FIVE OR SIX AFGHAN PRESS PRESENT, LARGELY IF NOT ENTIRELY REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENT MEDIA. LOCAL STRINGERS OR VISITING FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS FOR ONE OR TWO WIRE SERVICES ALSO OFTEN HAVE APPEARED. QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY FROM AFGHAN PRESS, HAVE BEEN POLITE AND EASY TO FIELD, AND HAVE INVARIABLY DEALT WITH US ATTITUDES TOWARD AFGHANISTAN RATHER THAN US POLICIES IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD.

2. DEPSEC VISIT PROVIDES WELCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF CONTINUED US INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR VIGOROUS MODERNIZING EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY SHAFIQ GOVERNMENT. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY BE EXPLOITED BY DEPSEC' S MEETING BRIEFLY WITH PRESS AT AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. NO ARRIVAL STATEMENT IS NECESSARY, BUT FROM PREVIOUS VISITS WE SUGGEST THAT A BRIEF DEPARTURE STATEMENT BE READ TO PRESS, FOLLOWED BY TIME FOR QUESTIONS. STATEMENT CAN MENTION MAJOR THEMES DISCUSSED WITH RGA DURING VISIT AND REAFFIRM IN GENERAL SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON HELMAND TREATY, NEW LEGISLATION DRAFTED AND APPROVED, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION. SINCE, HOWEVER, SITUATION HERE CONCERNING TREATY IS CURRENTLY VERY TOUCHY, AS IS CURRENT STATE OF

RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, WE BELIEVE IT UNWISE DRAFT PROPOSED DEPARTURE STATEMENT THIS FAR IN ADVANCE OF VISIT . FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE TREATY NOT RPT NOT YET RATIFIED BY PARLIAMENT, NO MENTION OF IT WOULD BE RECOMMENDED FOR DEPARTURE STATEMENT OR PRESS CONFERENCE. WE PROPOSE HAVE DRAFT STATEMENT READY FOR REVIEW BY DEPSEC UPON ARRIVAL, WHICH WILL PERMIT US HAVE IT REFLECT ACCURATELY THEN CURRENT NUANCES IN SITUATION.

3. BASED ON EXPERIENCE WITH PREVIOUS VISITS OF THIS NATURE, WHICH IN CATEGORY OF INFORMAL RATHER THAN FORMAL VISIT, DO NOT ANTICIPATE DEPSEC WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE TOAST AT LUNCHEON.

4. ASSUME FROM PARA FIVE REFTEL THAT NO ADDITIONAL PAPERS FOR DISCUSSIONS HERE WILL BE REQUIRED. AS INDICATED IN REF B, WE HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY ON PLANE BETWEEN TEHRAN AND KABUL TO BRIEF DEPSEC ON POINTS HE MAY WISH MAKE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PM AND OTHER OFFICIALS.
NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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